

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

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1. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating television content and enhancement data including announcements, comprising:

receiving the television content associated with multiple television channels over a transport medium;

receiving enhancement data associated with the multiple television channels that have been multiplexed onto a separate delivery mechanism, announcements in the enhancement data being expected at a first location and indicating at least some of the enhancement data is being transmitted;

receiving one or more special indications at the first location indicating that enhancement data is available on the separate delivery mechanism, the one or more special indications identifying locations of the announcements associated with the multiple television channels;

determining a location of an announcement based on a special indication associated with a currently tuned television channel; and

processing the announcement of the currently tuned television channel.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the processing includes processing announcements according to an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum Specification.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more special indications are received on the separate delivery mechanism.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the enhancement data over the separate delivery mechanism includes receiving the enhancement data on a data-only transport stream program.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the enhancement data over the separate delivery mechanism includes receiving the enhancement over a separate communications link.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the announcements at locations different from the first location.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein receiving the announcements includes receiving the announcements at an Internet Protocol address and port different from an expected announcement Internet Protocol address and port.

8. (Currently Amended) A system capable of communicating audio/video content, comprising:

a receiver adapted to tune to an audio/video portion over a transport medium;

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a device adapted to receive announcement data associated with the tuned audio/video content directed to a first location and to receive a special announcement directed to the first location, the special announcement indicating availability of the announcement data associated with the tuned audio/video program and the announcement data associated with the tuned audio/video content indicating enhancement data is being transmitted; and

a controller adapted to redirect the announcement data to a second location in response to the special announcement.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the second location includes an address and port for receiving announcements according to an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum Specification.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating audio/video programs, comprising:

receiving the audio/video programs over a transport medium;

receiving a plurality of ancillary information streams associated with a plurality of audio/video programs over a separate delivery mechanism, announcements in the ancillary information streams being expected at a first location and indicating enhancement data is being transmitted;

receiving a predetermined indication at the first location;
tuning to one of the audio/video programs; and
identifying a location of the announcement of an ancillary information stream associated with the tuned audio/video program based on the predetermined indication.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating audio/video content and enhancement data, comprising:

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transmitting the audio/video content over a transport medium;
multiplexing enhancement data including announcements associated with multiple audio/video programs for transmission over a separate delivery mechanism, the announcements indicating at least some of the enhancement data is being transmitted; and
transmitting a predetermined indication over the separate delivery mechanism to a first location at which the announcements in the enhancement data are expected, the predetermined indication being associated with one of the audio/video programs and identifying a location other than the first location of one or more announcements associated with the one audio/video program.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising multicasting the enhancement data and predetermined indications to a plurality of receivers.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the enhancement data is according to an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum Specification.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the first location includes an IP address and port at which announcements are expected to arrive.

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15. (Currently Amended) A system capable of receiving audio/video content over a transport medium and ancillary information over a separate delivery mechanism, comprising:

- a first device adapted to receive the audio/video content associated with a plurality of audio/video programs over the transport medium;
- a second device adapted to receive one or more special indicators and a stream of ancillary information portions associated with a plurality of audio/video programs over the separate delivery mechanism; and
- a controller adapted to locate one or more ancillary information portions associated with a tuned audio/video program based on information in a special indicator identified with the tuned audio/video program,

wherein the ancillary information portions include announcements, and the special indicators include data identifying locations of the one or more announcements, the announcements indicating enhancement data is being transmitted.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the ancillary information is according to an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum Specification.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the announcements are expected at an announcement IP address and port.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the first and second devices may include different parts of a software routine.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting audio/video content and ancillary information portions, comprising:

a first unit adapted to transmit audio/video content over a transport medium;

a controller adapted to combine announcement information portions associated with a plurality of audio/video programs for transmission, said announcement information portions indicating enhancement data associated with said plurality of audio/video programs is being transmitted; and

a second unit adapted to transmit the combined announcement information portions with a special indicator associated with an audio/video program, the special indicator being transmitted to a first location at which the announcement information portions are expected, the special indicator identifying locations of the announcement information portions.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the announcement information portions include announcements according to an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum Specification.

21. (Currently Amended) An article including one or more machine-readable storage media containing instructions for communicating audio/video programs in a system, the instructions when executed causing a device in the system to:

receive the audio/video programs, each audio/video program including at least one of audio data and video data, over a transport medium from a source;

receive a stream of ancillary data portions including announcements associated with a plurality of audio/video programs over a separate delivery mechanism, said announcement information portions indicating enhancement data is being transmitted;

tune to one of the audio/video programs;

receive a predetermined indicator associated with the tuned audio/video program at a first location; and

identify a second location of one or more announcements associated with the tuned audio/video program based on the predetermined indicator.

22. (Original) The article of claim 21, the one or more storage media containing instructions that when executed cause the system to receive audio/video programs including television content associated with a plurality of television channels.

23. (Original) The article of claim 21, the one or more storage media containing instructions that when executed cause the system to receive ancillary data portions including enhancement data according to an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum Specification.

B 1 24. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1, wherein the first location comprises a first network address and port, the method further comprising receiving the announcements at a second network address and port different from the first network address and port.

25. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the one or more special indications at the first location comprises receiving the one or more special indications at a network address and port.

26. (Previously Added) The system of claim 8, wherein the first location comprises a first network address and port and the second location comprises a second, different network address and port.

27. (Previously Added) The method of claim 10, wherein receiving the predetermined indication at the first location comprises receiving the predetermined indication at a first network address and port, and

wherein identifying the location of the announcement comprises identifying a second, different network address and port.

28. (Previously Added) The method of claim 11, wherein transmitting the predetermined indication to the first location comprises transmitting the predetermined indication to a first network address and port,

wherein the location other than the first location comprises a second, different network address and port.

29. (Previously Added) The system of claim 15, wherein the locations identified by the special indicators comprise network addresses and ports.

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30. (Previously Added) The system of claim 19, wherein the first location comprises a first network address and port, and wherein the locations of the announcement information portions comprise network addresses and ports other than the first network address and port.

31. (Previously Added) The article of claim 21, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to receive the predetermined indicator at a first network address and port and to identify a second, different network address and port of the one or more announcements.
